WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: **Scientific core sampling of the Seattle Fault in support of research conducted by the University of Washington and the US Geological Survey**

2. Name of applicant: **Williamson & Associates, Inc.**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: **1124 NW 53rd Street, Seattle, WA 98107, contact person: Mike Williamson, (206)285-8273**

4. Date checklist prepared: **November 14, 2009**

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Department of Natural Resources, Aquatic Lands Division**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Core sampling to be conducted during the period December 6 to 13, 2009**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. **No**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. **The environmental information is detailed in the attached Application for Right-of-Entry Permit and a explanatory letter from Professor Paul Johnson of the University of Washington. Basically to project entails collection of rock core samples of the Blakely Formation at a site on the south side of the Seattle Fault, a major geological feature of critical significance to the region. A single hole will be drilled to obtain core samples 63mm (2.5") in diameter to a depth of 100 meters below the seafloor at a site in Clam Bay, Rich Passage, Puget Sound. No discharges other than clean seawater used to flush drill cutting will occur and no equipment will be left on the seabed after the sampling program.**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. **We are not aware of any other applications that would affect this proposal.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. **A "Right of Entry" Permit from the Washington Department of Natural Resources for use of Aquatic Lands.**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)
The project will consist of obtaining scientific core samples from a single hole drilled into the seabed of Clam Bay in approximately 20 feet of water. The drilling system is a robotic, seafloor-based device that will lowered to the seabed from a crane barge either tied to the EPA pier (owned by the adjacent EPA Manchester Environmental Laboratory) or anchored in the Bay. The electro-hydraulic power and control of the operation are supplied through an umbilical cable deployed from a control room on the barge.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. **The preferred site is approximately 80 feet north of the EPA pier in Clam Bay, Rich Passage, Puget Sound, Kitsap County, Section 16, Township T24N, Range R2E. Water depth at the site is approximately 20 feet. A site map and bathymetric chartlet are provided with the DNR Application. In addition, a site survey with sidescan sonar and precision bathymetry was conducted on November 8, 2009 to verify the suitability of the proposed site, also included with the Right of Entry Permit application..**

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . **.Seafloor of Puget Sound, exposed rock and relatively flat.**

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? **5%**

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland. **Rocks of the Blakely Formation are at or near the seafloor a the proposed coring site.**

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. **Extreme vertical displacement has occurred at this site in the geologic past. The proposed site is on the uplifted block of the Seattle Fault at one of the few places where the dip of the strata is less than 30 degrees (the dip is expected to be 8 to 12 degrees at the proposed site).**

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. **No filling or grading is involved.**

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No clearing or construction is involved other than to collection of scientific cores.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

No erosion will result from this proposal

a. **Air**

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

The crane barge is powered by a diesel engine, as is the auxiliary generator used to power the drilling system and exhaust typical of a marine vessel will be emitted during the coring operation.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Both the main engine of the crane barge and the gen-set are in good repair and no additional measures should be needed.

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Several sewer outfalls entering into Clam Bay are noted on the Navigational Chart. Our activities will not impact the tidal or upland areas.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

No

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

No fill or dredging activity are involved

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Proposed site in on the seafloor of Puget Sound

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No withdrawal or discharge of ground water will be involved.

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

No water runoff

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

No surface, ground water or runoff impacts.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

———— deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other

———— evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

———— shrubs

———— grass

———— pasture

———— crop or grain

———— wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

———— water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

———— other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

None

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not known

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: **fish (in pens), possible shellfish in tidelands**

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site. **None known**

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

No

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

None

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Diesel and diesel-electric

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

No specific energy conservation measure are included

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No hazards other that the general risks involved in working on the water. All crew will have approved life vests and hard hats while working shipboard. The Electro-hydraulic system is protected by ground-fault interrupt circuits (GFIC) in accordance with NEC safety codes

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Our shipboard crew have been trained in medical emergency at sea, survival at sea and are certified and insured for offshore work. University personnel will be provided with safety equipment and will be briefed along with all other participants in the project safety meetings held onboard.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Safety equipment and training as outlined above.

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? **None**

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Noise from normal operation of diesel engines typical of shipboard work. Site is in the Bay and should not create a problem for personnel ashore.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

The crane barge engine and the diesel generator are well muffled and there should be no noise impacts.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The adjacent property is the EPA Manchester Environmental Lab.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No

c. Describe any structures on the site.

No structures at the site and closest structure is the EPS pier.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Marine (navigable water)

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Navigable water

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

No shoreline involved

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None required

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

No land impacts

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None required

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

No structure proposed

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

None

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None required

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Deck lighting aboard the barge at night during the drilling operqtion

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None known

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Manchester State Park to the north of Clam Bay

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

None known

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Former Navy submarine net facility at Manchester

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

None, access will be by water.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: .....

Date Submitted: November 13, 2005

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Proposal will not result in any increase in discharge to water, temporary increase in diesel exhaust and noise during the 2-3 days of core sampling.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Since exhaust and engine noise are typical of normal vessel activity in the area, no measures are anticipated.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

No affect on plants, temporary influence on marine life (underwater lights attract marine life during the brief period of operations).

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

No special measures above the prudent operation of the vessel and equipment at sea.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

No depletion beyond normal marine operations.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

No proposed measure to be implemented during the 2-3 days of operations at the proposed site.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

No affect on environmentally sensitive areas are anticipated.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

No measures are proposed.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

No effect on shoreline or upland use.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

None

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

No demands on transportation or utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

None proposed.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.: **No conflicts anticipated.**